

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0808

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3768

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR WOLLE MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MU, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN ASSISTANCE FOR DHOFAR WAR

1. ZAWAWI, OMANI MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRIEFED AMBASSADOR ON RECENT (AUGUST 28-29) VISIT OF IRANIAN COS GEN. AZHARI, DESCRIBED AS PART OF ONGOING OMANI-IRANIAN CONSULTATIONS ON INTENDED FALL CAMPAIGN AGAINST DHOFAR REBELS. AZHARI ACCOMPANIED BY SAF CHIEF OF STAFF CREASEY HAD HELICOPTERED OVER KEY LOCATIONS IN DHOFAR AND MET WITH SULTAN QABUS. OMANIS RENEWED THEIR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL IRANIAN TROOPS THIS FALL AND THEIR SUGGESTION THAT IRANIANS REPOSITION THEMSELVES INTO AREA WEST OF HORNBEAM LINE "WHERE ENEMY MORE PLENTIFUL." PRESENT IRANIAN POSITIONS ALONG SALALAH-MIDWAY ROAD WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO FIRQA (TRIBAL IRREGULAR) FORCES. MEANWHILE CIVIL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE PUSHED HARD IN DHOFAR'S EASTERN AND CENTRAL SECTORS. AZHARI HAD RETURNED HOME TO TALK WITH THE SHAH, AND SAID HE WOULD REPLY TO OMANI SUGGESTIONS WITHIN ONE WEEK.

2. ZAWAWI EXPRESSED MODERATE OPTIMISM IRAN WOULD RESPOND SATISFACTORILY. HE REITERATED HIS GOVT'S BRATITUDE FOR IRAN'S ATTITUDE AND ASSISTANCE SO FAR, PARTICULARLY THE VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF SHAH HIMSELF. HE NOTED SHAH HAD APPARENTLY GIVEN COS AZHARI "HARD TIME" MORE THAN ONCE LATELY, IN TELLING HIM TO SEE THAT HIS TROOPS WERE FULLY ACTIVE IN DHOFAR AND

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QUESTIONING WHETHER HE HAD SENT FIGHTERS OR GIRLS TO HELP OMAN.

3. IRANIANS HAVE AGREED, SAID ZAWAWI, TO PAINT WITH OMANI MARKINGS THEIR AIRCRAFT USED IN DHOFAR.

4. COMMENT: LONG-PLANNED FALL CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE SIGNIFICANTLY REBEL PRESENCE AND THREAT IN AREA BETWEEN HORNBEAM LINE AND PDRY BORDER IS CLOSE AT HAND NOW AS MONSOON SEASON FADES OUT DURING SEPTEMBER. CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN IS VITAL TO OMANI SUCCESS. PRESENT SERIES OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HIGHLY SECRET. IN BRIEFING AMBASSADOR, ZAWAWI MADE NO REQUEST OF US APART FROM QUESTION TOW MISSILE (SEPTTEL).
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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